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Date: 20 March 2020



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Dear Parent

## SCHOOL CLOSURE

You will be aware of the recent decision by the First Minister that all schools and local authority early learning and childcare settings should close to children and young people with effect from 5.00pm today (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020). The Scottish Government has stated that the opening of schools “*should be kept to the minimum required in order to support virus control*” and consequently “*we are planning on the basis that the majority of children will be cared for at home*”. This will be the default position for most pupils for the foreseeable future.

Please note the following:

- All schools will close from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 5.00pm
- Staff, when well, will provide a different form of educational provision (primarily online using the digital technologies available to them)
- All secondary schools will remain open over the next few weeks to allow pupils in S4-6 to complete course work / assessments. (Please note that pupils should attend school only at the times indicated by their teachers and at no other time. Details of this will be emailed directly to parents over the coming days and posted on pupils’ Google Classrooms)
- Provision for the most vulnerable pupils in S1-3 will be made in cases where families are unable to arrange alternative care

### Supporting key workers:

Key workers with younger children who are unable to secure alternative childcare provision are asked to telephone the school office on the above telephone number to make their situation known to the school. We shall provide childcare for key workers in this position. For example, where one parent is a nurse and the other works in the prison service, an offer of childcare provision will be made. We recognise this may present a challenge but we must be guided by the definitions above to prioritise provision.

Key Workers fall into the following three categories:

#### Category 1

Health and Care workers directly supporting COVID-19 response and associated staff; Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work as well as critical primary and community care provision; Energy suppliers (small numbers identified as top priority already); staff providing childcare / learning for other category 1 staff.



### Category 2

All other Health and Care workers and wider public sector workers providing emergency / critical welfare services (e.g. Fire, Police, Prisons, Social Workers, etc.), as well as those supporting our Critical National Infrastructure, without whom serious damage to the welfare of the people of Scotland would be caused.

### Category 3

All workers without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland (but where the response to COVID-19, or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running, would be severely compromised).

### **SQA Examinations:**

The decision means the cancellation of the 2020 exam diet. Teachers will now work to complete any outstanding coursework and assignments, and to provide estimate grades to SQA. The Deputy First Minister has asked schools and colleges to continue to work with young people to ensure that any units and coursework are completed and estimated grades are provided by teachers, drawing on the available evidence gathered throughout the year. For many learners, we will also have prior attainment information which will be helpful to us.

I shall of course post any updates or changes to National Guidance on the school's website and Twitter account and would urge you to check these regularly.

In the meantime, I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support at this uncertain time. Like you, our immediate priority is the wellbeing of children. Please be in no doubt, however, that we will do everything possible to ensure that our pupils' education does not suffer as a result of the disruption brought about by these school closures.

With best wishes.

William Inglis  
Head Teacher